

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An item (2) comprising:
at least one product (26); and
a flexible packaging film (4) forming a sealed enclosure containing the
product ~~or products~~ and an amount of gas, the film having a precut line (24), ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the amount of gas is chosen so that a consumer can grasp the item (2)
in such a way as to compress it the item so as to increase the pressure of the gas to such a point that
bending the item (2) causes the film (4) to rupture instantaneously along the most part of the precut
line (24).
2. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~
wherein the item is arranged in such a way that rupture occurs only along the precut line (24).
3. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in ~~claim 1 or 2~~, ~~characterized in~~
~~that, with the film (4) having~~ claim 1, wherein that the film has a joining line (8) contiguous with
the precut line (24), and the item is arranged in such a way that rupture occurs along at least the
entire part of the precut line that lies away from the ~~adjoining~~ joining line.
4. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~,
~~characterized in that with~~ claim 1, wherein the item (2) ~~having~~ has one longer dimension[,]
and the precut line (24) extends in a plane perpendicular to this dimension.

5. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that it contains claim 1, containing at least two products (26), the precut line (24) extending opposite a space between the two products or two of the products.

6. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, characterized in that it contains claim 5, containing two products (26) of approximately the same dimensions.

7. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the film (4) has at least two superposed layers (12, 18) of material and the precut line extends mainly in one of the layers, with reference to a thickness of the film.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in ~~claim 7 or 8~~, characterized in that claim 7, wherein the precut line (24) extends through the entire thickness of one (12) of the layers.

10. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in ~~any of claims 7 to 9~~, characterized in that claim 7, wherein the film has at least two superposed layers of material and the

precut line (24) extends mainly in one of the layers (12) defining an outer face (14) of the item (2);
~~preferably without extending into another (18) of the layers defining an inner face (20) of the item.~~

11. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 10;~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the film (4) has a layer of polypropylene (12) in which the
precut line (24) extends.

12. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 11;~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the film has a layer of polyethylene (18) through which the
precut line (24) does not pass.

13. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 12;~~
~~characterized in that the or each product (26)~~ claim 1, wherein the product is a food product;
~~particularly a confectionery product.~~

14. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 13;~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the product is frozen.

15. (Currently amended) A packaging method in which a sealed enclosure is
produced using a flexible film (4), enclosing inside the enclosure at least one product (26) and some
gas together forming an item, the film having a precut line (24), ~~characterized in that wherein~~

enclosed in the enclosure is an amount of gas designed so that a consumer can grasp the ~~finished~~ item (2) in such a way as to compress it the item so as to increase the pressure of the gas to such a point that bending the item causes the film (4) to rupture instantaneously along the most part of the precut line (24).

16. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the film (4) is shaped before the enclosure is closed, so as to enclose the amount of gas.

17. (Currently amended) A packaging machine comprising means for producing a sealed enclosure from a flexible film (4) and for enclosing inside the enclosure at least one product (26) and some gas together forming an item, the film (4) having a precut line, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the machine is arranged to enclose in the enclosure an amount of gas ~~designed so such~~ that a consumer can grasp the ~~finished~~ item (2) in such a way as to compress it the item so as to increase the pressure of the gas to such a point that bending the item causes the film (4) to rupture instantaneously along the most part of the precut line (24).

18. (New) The item as claimed in claim 10, wherein the precut line extends in one of the layers defining an outer face of the item preferably without extending into another (18) of the layers defining an inner face (20) of the item.

19. (New) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the product is a confectionery product.

20. (New) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the product is solid.

21. (New) The item as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least two products are solid.